

(b) whether the Government are also aware of the difficulties being faced by the agents of National Saving Scheme in collecting deposits due to the new restriction of limiting the handling of receipt upto Rs. 5,000/- by them; and

(c) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to review the said regulations and restrictions?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The revision of interest rates on bank deposits has not affected the National Saving Scheme.

(b) and (c). No restriction of limiting the handling of receipt books by the agents of National Saving Scheme upto Rs. 5000/- has been imposed.

[Translation]

Co-operative Sugar Mills

4282. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 26 co-operative sugar mills of Maharashtra, which were provided licence during Seventh Five Year Plan have made financial tie-up;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether IFCI is not providing financial assistance to co-operative sugar mills of Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) has reported that out of the 27 applications received from new sugar co-operatives in the States of Maharashtra, the institutions had short-listed in phases, 25 cases for processing in Jan-April, 1994, subsequent to clearance of the defaults of the existing sugar co-operatives in the State of Maharashtra by the State Government. Out of the aforesaid 25 applications, financial assistance has been sanctioned by the institutions in 21 cases and the sanction/processing in remaining 4 short listed cases has been kept in abeyance in view of mounting defaults in respect of the existing sugar co-operatives.

(c) and (d). IFCI has reported that it has been decided jointly by the financial institutions to consider any fresh applications for financial assistance in respect of sugar cooperatives from the State of Maharashtra only after the existing projects under implementation have commissioned (whereafter only a clear picture would emerge with regard to availability of sugarcane) and the issue relating to mounting overdues in respect of sugar co-operatives is sorted out.

[English]

Benami Property

4283. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government keep a watch on the unaccounted wealth and properties accumulated by the Income-Tax, Customs and Excise officials beyond their known sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the number of cases of alleged corruption and income tax evasion registered and prosecutions launched against such officials during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Both the Income-tax Department and Central Excise and Customs Department have an independent Directorate of Vigilance to process cases of complaint against officials of the Department. CVC and CBI also keep a vigil on the unaccounted wealth and disproportionate assets of the officials of the Departments. Furthermore, CCS (Conduct) Rules for Central Government servants contain elaborate provisions on norms of integrity and good conduct which include inter alia submission of Immovable Property Returns, intimation of transactions over certain specified monetary limits and financial inspections of Government servants affairs.

(c) The number of cases registered for acquiring disproportionate assets during the last 3 years are

Income Tax Department	31
Customs and Central Excise Department	6

Further, follow-up action as per the CCS (Conduct) Rules and whenever required, under the Income-tax Act is taken.

Public Sector Undertakings

4284. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether employees in public sector undertakings transferred from any part of the country and posted in the public sector units in the N.E. region are given special incentives considering the "very special circumstances prevailing in the area";

(b) if so, the details thereof;